

News from the East Asia and Pacific

Korea

Investment of \$316 million in Robot Industry

South Korea's Ministry of Knowledge and Economy (MKE) announced that the government plans to expand the nation's robot industry by more than ten times over the next decade. Under the plan, the MKE plans to allocate 350 billion KRW (USD 316 million) to develop new technologies and industries, as well as commercial robots, to include disaster relief robots and home assistance robots. (*Yonhap News*, October 17)



Japan

113th Element

A Japanese research team led by Dr. Kosuke Morita of the RIKEN Nishina Center for Accelerator-based Science, has found new evidence confirming their initial discovery in 2004 of an isotope of the 113th element, paving the way for its listing under a new name in the periodic table. The findings were published in the September 27 English edition of the *Journal of the Physical Society of Japan*. (September 28, 2012 *The Mainichi*)

Marine Energy

Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI) will launch a test in 2014 at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) located in the Orkney Islands in northern Scotland, which is said to provide the largest test field for marine energy. KHI is now developing a tidal power generator attached to the sea bottom at a depth of 50 meters. The tidal power will turn its 18-meter-diameter blades to generate electricity. The direction of blades will be automatically controlled according to the rise or ebb of the tide. The blades undergo special processing for preventing the adhesion of marine organisms that could interfere with the generator. (October 23, 2012 *Nikkei News*)